



south carolina  
**STATE LIBRARY**

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*More Monthly Newsletter*

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Vol. 56 No. 12, December 2021

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## **A Note From Our Agency Director**

When the COVID-19 pandemic caused students to move to virtual learning in March 2020, libraries pivoted to meet community needs, as they always do. At the South Carolina State Library, we examined how [Discus - South Carolina's Virtual Library](#) could assist students in real-time. We knew we had quality databases that students and teachers know and trust that provide information and credible sources; however, we wondered if we could do more to assist with the unexpected transition to virtual learning.

Moving to a virtual learning environment was a challenge for many teachers, students, and families. In an effort to aid in the challenges of this change, we quickly launched Tutor.com on March 24, 2020. We intended to make Tutor.com available through the end of the 2020 school year. As the pandemic lingered and needs grew, we extended the service to the first quarter of the next school year and ultimately entered into a contract through the entire 2021 school year. It became obvious that tutoring in a virtual environment was necessary during these uncertain times. Tutor.com is a proven industry leader with 20 years of experience, which provides students the opportunity to work with a live tutor to receive assistance in more than 200 subject areas. The information we received directly from students indicates the service is extremely easy to use and helpful in increasing a student's ability and knowledge. However, with limited funds, we were not able to promote the service as we would like and were limited on the number of sessions. The South Carolina Department of Education took the initiative to contact us to see how they could assist.

By partnering with the South Carolina Department of Education, we have been able to increase access to Tutor.com to 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the next three years. Utilizing \$1.5 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, our agencies can continue to offer on-demand tutoring services to students. Our goal is to deepen students' ability to learn and retain the knowledge gained; this partnership helps us do just that.

To learn how to access Tutor.com via Discus, follow the step-by-step instructions [included on our website](#). We are grateful for our partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education and the lasting impact it will have on students, teachers, and families. Together, we can ensure South Carolina students have the necessary tools for academic success.

All the best,

Leesa M. Aiken  
SCSL Agency Director



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## How to Effectively Run a Meeting: 12/08/2021

Host meetings that get raves rather than regrets by discovering how to plan and execute effective meetings.

[READ MORE](#)

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## Reboot Your Book Club: 12/15/21

Is your book club a bust? Get it going again with this webinar featuring ways to reach niche populations and create partnerships that open your library up to unique ideas and experiences.

[READ MORE](#)

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## eAccessibility: Evaluating Your Library's Success Indicators and Scalable Staff Training: 1/05/2021

See where your library stands on key accessibility success indicators and identify supports to implement and maintain an accessible web presence.

[READ MORE](#)

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## Deadline Extension

You have more than a week to enter this year's writing contest from [ReadSC, the South Carolina Center for the Book](#). The contest is open for students in grades 4-12. Students entering the Letters Contest may write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre, explaining how that author's work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. Those interested in entering the



# ReadSC

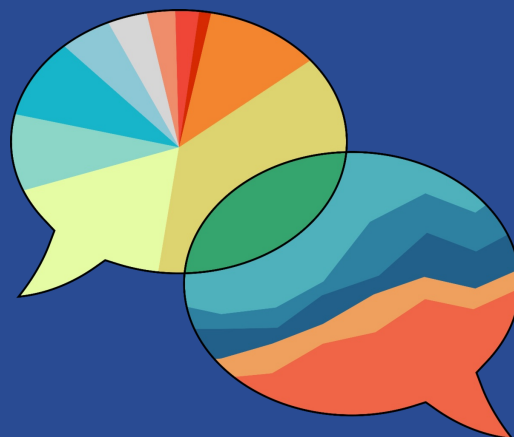
## WRITING CONTEST

Poetry Contest may write a poem on how they wish to shape the world, their impact, and their vision for the world. Students may enter both genres. There are three levels for each contest, depending on the grade in school. Judges will select three winners from each category and each level. Author Pat Mora joins us next Friday, December 10 to recognize the 2020 and 2021 winners. To find additional information and submit entries, please [visit the ReadSC website](#).



### Chat With Us

Gather around the monitor and chat with other South Carolina Youth Services staff. The monthly meeting of the minds kicks off [Wednesday, December 15, at 11:00 a.m.](#) As we wrap up the end of another strange and unpredictable year, one constant is our ever-growing TBR (to be read) lists! What have been your favorite reads of 2021? Favorite chapter books for kids and teens? Favorites to use in storytime? Any standout professional development titles? Bring a copy to show on screen, and we'll add it to the faves list.



### Data Discussions

This year may be winding down, but our data chats are trending upward. This month we explore what happens after the sun sets on the 2021 Public Libraries Survey and look to new horizons in 2022. We'll chat about what we can do at the state level to improve the process and explore changes on tap for 2022. [Register and chat with us](#), Thursday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m.

### Expanding Our Reach

Twenty-one South Carolina library systems enter 2022 with grant money to expand their resources and programs for multilingual patrons. The [Multilingual Collection Development Grants](#) help support people who speak a language other than English at home by offering new library materials in their first languages. The goal is to strengthen relationships between public libraries and members of this population. Since Spanish is the second most spoken language in South

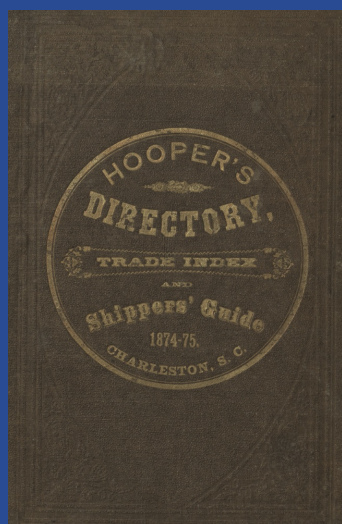
Carolina, many grant recipients will purchase Spanish materials. Libraries with a need for Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Korean, Russian, French, and German materials will also feature these languages. The \$2000 grants are part of the American Rescue Plan Act and funded through the Library Services and Technology Act provided by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) and administered by the South Carolina State Library.



## Know an HR Superstar?

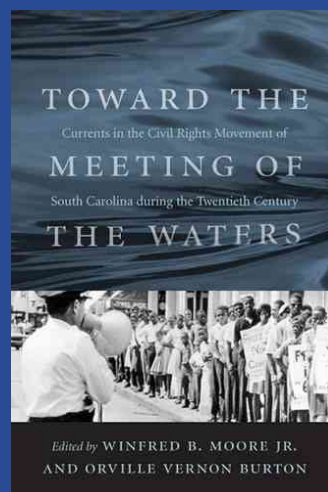
While librarians are an integral part of what we do, 38% of our staff consists of non-librarians. Anyone looking to grow in all aspects of Human Resources should [apply to be our next Human Resources Generalist](#). Various benefits are available, including the State Health Plan, 15 days annual leave, 15 days sick leave, and 13 paid holidays.

## We're Hiring



## A Rare Find

Experience what Charleston was like in 1875. Our librarians recently discovered a Charleston city and county trade directory. They cataloged the book and added it to the temperature and light-controlled cabinets that house the [Rare Books Collection](#). *Hooper's Directory, Trade Index and Shippers' Guide for Charleston, S.C., 1874-1875* is digitized and [available for viewing](#). Take a look and a step back in time.



## Discover Civil Rights

Let us help in your search for information on the Civil Rights Era in South Carolina. Our librarians recently presented "Discover Civil Rights through the South Carolina State Library" to librarians from across the State. They demonstrated using State Library resources to help patrons locate and access South Carolina-related Civil Rights materials. Stay tuned; we hope to offer a similar event in the new year.





## Let's Celebrate Art

The 2022 Talking Book Services Art Competition is underway. Any visually impaired/blind child or young adult who is still in school may enter. Artwork needs to be tactile in any medium, one entry per student. We will award first, second, and third place for each age category. The submission deadline is March 4, 2022. Please visit our [Talking Book Services website](#) for additional details and a registration form.

## CONNECT WITH US!

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